

100 Year Celebration

In 2016, the North Carolina state parks system celebrates its 100th anniversary. We're commemorating North Carolina plans to celebrate the state parks system's centennial throughout the year with a series of special events, festivals and a myriad of other fun and entertaining activities.



Your state parks connect us all with our rich natural heritage and our history and contribute significantly to the economy of the state. The Centennial Celebration is a premier opportunity to recognize the visionary leaders of our state who set the wheels in motion to create a parks system which has grown to 225,000 acres and delights more than 15.6 million visitors each year.

The General Assembly authorized the purchase of land for a state park at Mount Mitchell on March 3, 1915, and 795 acres on the summit were acquired by the end of 1916, which firmly established the first state park in the southeastern United States. North Carolina set a standard for the nation in protecting its natural resources. The state parks centennial in 2016 is an opportunity for all North Carolinians to renew a shared commitment of stewardship of those resources.

Today, your state parks protect North Carolina's natural heritage, educate citizens about how to be responsible environmental stewards and offer a wealth of recreational opportunities for enjoyment and health benefits. Please visit one or more in 2016. We're sure you will find them to be Naturally Wonderful!



Mount Mitchell State Park



Occonee Mountain State Natural Area



Natural and Cultural Resources

Pat McCrory
Governor

Susan Kluttz
Secretary

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Our Mission

The North Carolina State Parks System exists for the enjoyment, education, health and inspiration of all our citizens and visitors.

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation is:

- to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;
- to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina; and,
- to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources for all citizens and visitors in North Carolina.

The North Carolina parks system's Website gives complete information on each of our parks as well as programs of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. You'll find maps that can be downloaded plus details on park facilities, fees, reservations and special outdoor activities such as cycling, kayaking and rock climbing. Contact information for each park is provided as well as an up-to-date calendar of educational programs and special events. Check it out before your visit at www.ncparks.gov.

We also offer specialized brochures for many of our parks. These brochures include park maps and describe facilities in detail as well as the unique natural and historic aspects of the park. Just contact the park office or our Raleigh office at 919-707-9300, or email us at parkinfo@ncmail.net.

Jockey's Ridge State Park



Eno River State Park



William B. Umstead State Park



Carolina Beach State Park



Lake James State Park

About our parks...

In North Carolina, we like to call our state parks "Naturally Wonderful." For us, this is more than a catch phrase. It indicates how we develop and manage our state parks and recreation areas.

It has to do with our mission statement on the facing page, which, in turn, evolved from our state's Constitution. Our principal mission is to preserve and protect the stunning natural resources in North Carolina. The Division strives to balance the protection of the more than 225,000 acres of parkland in our system while providing high quality outdoor recreation. We have developed these parks cautiously with this idea in mind. While there are myriad recreational opportunities, our mission demands relatively low-impact activities. We have been careful to arrange campgrounds and park amenities to complement, rather than compete with the natural features that attract so many visitors.

While visiting our state parks, you'll find that fees for camping, swimming and other park activities are very reasonable. Early on, the people of North Carolina decided that the state's array of natural treasures should be enjoyed by as many as possible. Enjoy your exploration of North Carolina's state parks.

Please visit our Website for a complete list of new parks under development and other types of units, including our 20 state natural areas.

Support State Parks

There are so many ways you can support our state parks:

- Do you have some extra time to help us with a project? Visit our website for information about volunteering at a park.
- Visit our web store to see our full line of merchandise—we have everything from Christmas ornaments to coffee mugs. Celebrate our 2016 Centennial by purchasing commemorative NC State Parks 100th Anniversary merchandise. These items are great gifts for that special state parks fan, including yourself. www.ncparkstore.com
- Join the Friends of State Parks to help support, promote, and advocate for the parks system as a whole, or join the friends group of your favorite park. www.fsp.org
- Keep the parks around for the next generation. Make a donation at www.fsp.org/Donate
- Show your support for North Carolina State Parks all year around by buying a State Parks License Plate. Contact the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles to purchase a plate. www.ncdot.org/dmv/ Additional fees support the Friends of State Parks.



Reservations

A full-service, online- and call center-based reservations system can be used to reserve campsites, cabins, picnic shelters, auditoriums, classrooms, conference rooms and community buildings. Where reservations are offered, there are requirements for advance notice and minimum and maximum stays.

www.ncparks.gov
1-877-7-CAMPNC
(1-877-722-6762)

Park gates may be locked each night when the park closes. So, make sure you understand the gate policies at the park and plan accordingly when arranging your arrival time and when making daytime excursions outside the park.



Parks & Recreation Trust Fund

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) helps enhance the quality of life for North Carolinians by preserving the state's natural resources, buying parkland and building public recreation facilities. PARTF has conserved more than 40,000 acres of state parkland and developed new visitor centers, campgrounds, improved trails, swim areas and educational exhibits for our citizens. The trust fund is the primary funding source for adding to and improving state parks.



PARTF also provides matching grants for local governments to improve close-to-home recreation opportunities. Visit the trust fund's Website at www.ncparks.gov/partf

Education and Kids

Did you know that many plants atop Mount Mitchell are rare in North Carolina, but common in Quebec? Did you know that the giant sand dunes at Jockey's Ridge are constantly moving? Do you know how to safely hold a crayfish? Interpretation & Education programs help reveal what makes North Carolina state parks *Naturally Wonderful*.

Discover More with a Ranger

From fishing lessons to astronomy programs, from tree identification hikes to guided canoe paddles—parks offer programs for all ages. Visit our website for a list of upcoming programs.



Junior Rangers

Junior Ranger guides are geared for ages 6-12. Kids do fun activities and attend ranger programs to earn a special patch. Ask about the program at a park office or download the guide at www.ncparks.gov.



Environmental Education Learning Experiences

Parks have their own curriculum guides that tie science and social studies into hands-on field trips for schools. Many parks have exciting exhibit halls for self-guided discovery.



Falls Lake State Recreation Area

Trails Program

The North Carolina Trails Program helps volunteers, nonprofit groups and government agencies plan, develop and manage greenways, routes for hiking, biking and horseback riding, as well as water trails and off-road vehicle trails. The program administers the federal Recreational Trails Program, which provides grants to non-profit organizations and governmental agencies for a variety of trail projects. www.ncparks.gov/trails

The trails program is also planning, promoting and developing a system of trails across North Carolina and the flagship trail for this statewide effort is North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea State Trail. The trail will connect Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park when complete, a distance of some 1,000 miles.



We're Social



DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP

GET ALL OF OUR MAPS!

Help preserve our parks' print resources by going mobile!

Rules and Safety

We're serious about safety. Follow these tips to make your visit to North Carolina's state parks a safe and rewarding experience.

- Park speed limits are 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Watch for pedestrians, bicyclists and wildlife.
- Don't swim alone or exceed your swimming abilities.
- Supervise children at all times and equip them with personal flotation devices when playing around water.
- Dress properly. Check with park staff regarding weather and terrain.
- Make your plans known to park staff and family members should you plan a long hike.
- Allow plenty of time for hikes as daylight hours shorten so you won't be caught by darkness.
- Stay on designated trails and away from streams, waterfalls and cliff faces.

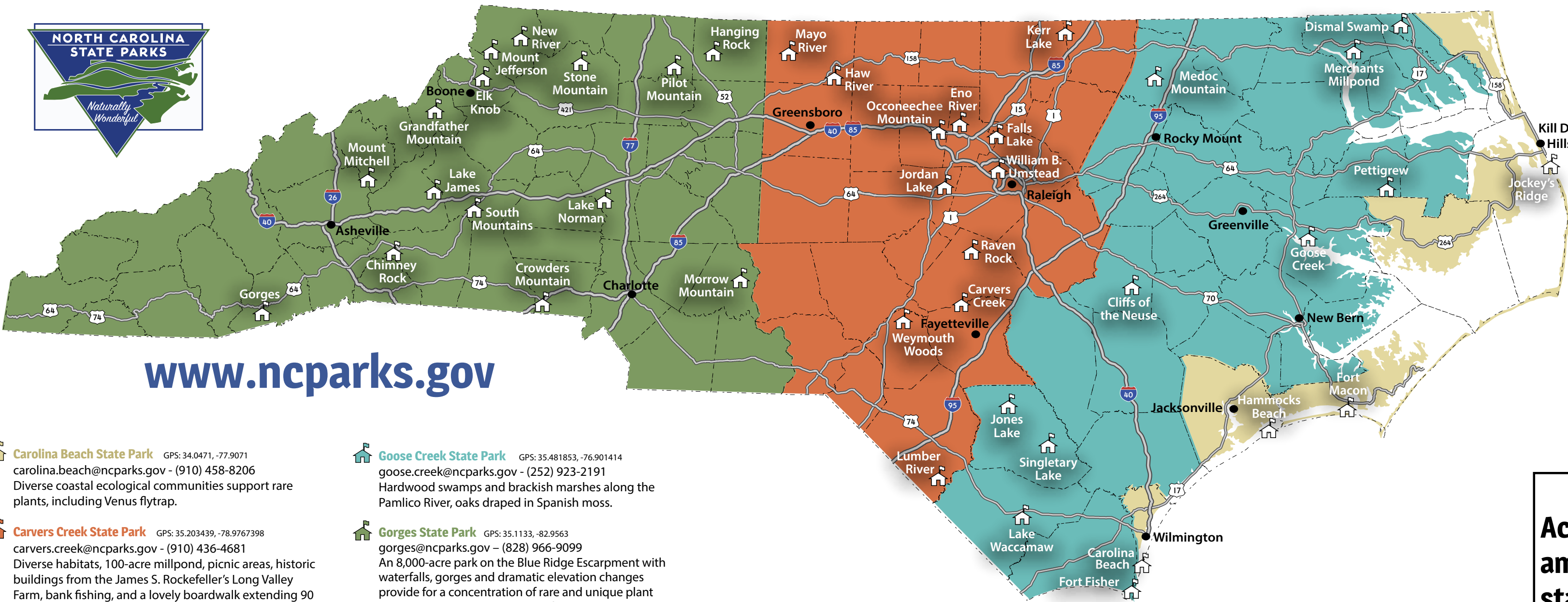
Here are some of the more common regulations for the protection of our parks and our visitors. Check with the park office for other rules pertaining to specific parks. A complete set of regulations is posted at the park office.

- Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Animals can be dangerous and carry disease. Report unusual behavior to park staff.
- The removal of any plant, animal, rock or artifact is prohibited.
- Areas managed by North Carolina State Parks are wildlife preserves. Hunting or trapping is prohibited.
- Pets must be on an attended leash six feet or less. Pets aren't allowed in public buildings, bathhouses or swimming areas.
- Boating and fishing regulations of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission are enforced. Appropriate licenses for freshwater, saltwater and trout fishing are required.
- Firearms and other weapons are prohibited except that those with a proper permit may possess a concealed handgun in permitted areas & under the requirements of North Carolina G.S. 14-415.11. All firearms and weapons are prohibited in state park visitor centers and offices. Persons acting under this exception should take notice that certain Division managed properties are owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and subject to separate regulations governing firearms. Accordingly, concealed handguns are prohibited at Falls, Jordan and Kerr Lake State Recreation Areas.
- Fires are permitted in designated areas only.
- Camping is permitted in designated areas, by permit only.
- The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Swimming is permitted in designated areas only.

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION



Mountains-to-Sea State Trail



- Legend
- Completed
 - Planned

The Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, an effort to link Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks, is the flagship project of the North Carolina Trails Program. Today, over 600 miles of the 1,000 mile route are open for use. Partners across North Carolina are helping to plan and build the trail to link communities together and to serve as the backbone of a growing system of land and water trails. Visit www.ncparks.gov for more information.

www.ncparks.gov

We're Social

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [p](#)

www.ncparks.gov



- Carolina Beach State Park** GPS: 34.0471, -77.9071
carolina.beach@ncparks.gov - (910) 458-8206
Diverse coastal ecological communities support rare plants, including Venus flytrap.
- Carvers Creek State Park** GPS: 35.203439, -78.9767398
carvers.creek@ncparks.gov - (910) 436-4681
Diverse habitats, 100-acre millpond, picnic areas, historic buildings from the James S. Rockefeller's Long Valley Farm, bank fishing, and a lovely boardwalk extending 90 feet into the cypress trees of the millpond.
- Chimney Rock State Park** GPS: 35.432799, -82.250260
chimney.rock@ncparks.gov - (828) 625-1823
Spectacular vistas of Hickory Nut Gorge. Historic tourist destination, 26-story elevator, 404-foot waterfall, over 6,000 acres, rock climbing and bouldering. Admission.
- Cliffs of the Neuse State Park** GPS: 35.2354, -77.8932
cliffs.neuse@ncparks.gov - (919) 778-6234
Multicolored cliffs up to 98 feet tower over historic river. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea Paddle Trail. Swim lake open during summer
- Crowders Mountain State Park** GPS: 35.2127, -81.3006
crowders.mountain@ncparks.gov - (704) 853-5375
Two of the highest peaks in Kings Mountain Range, 20-mile views, streams and lake environments.
- Dismal Swamp State Park** GPS: 36.5057, -76.3551
dismal.swamp@ncparks.gov - (252) 771-6593
More than 20 miles of hiking and biking trails on 14,000 acres of the historic Great Dismal Swamp. Wetland habitat and wildlife viewing on half-mile boardwalk. Kayak/canoe/bike rental. Underground Railroad historic designation. Visitor center and museum.
- Elk Knob State Park** GPS: 36.332586, -81.69064
elk.knob@ncparks.gov - (828) 297-7261
Scenic vistas from more than 5,500 feet in elevation with rare and unique plant communities. Enjoy a picnic after a rugged hike to the summit. Visit on a snowy day to enjoy cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.
- Eno River State Park** GPS: 36.0783, -79.0050
eno.river@ncparks.gov - (919) 383-1686
Scenic wilderness corridor encompasses 14 miles of river, multiple cultural history sites, and an extensive trail system. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.
- Falls Lake State Recreation Area** GPS: 36.0117, -78.6888
falls.lake@ncparks.gov - (919) 676-1027
Expansive reservoir and woodlands, habitat for diversity of animals, including American bald eagles. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.
- Fort Fisher State Recreation Area** GPS: 33.9534, -77.929
fort.fisher@ncparks.gov - (910) 458-5798
Barrier island between Cape Fear River and Atlantic Ocean is home to rare and endangered coastal birds and sea turtles.
- Fort Macon State Park** GPS: 34.696951, -76.677728
fort.macon@ncparks.gov - (252) 726-3775
Restored historic fort that played a key role in Civil War, barrier island beach. Fort tours, Civil War reenactments or enjoy the beautiful beach.

- Goose Creek State Park** GPS: 35.481853, -76.901414
goose.creek@ncparks.gov - (252) 923-2191
Hardwood swamps and brackish marshes along the Pamlico River, oaks draped in Spanish moss.
- Gorges State Park** GPS: 35.1133, -82.9563
gorges@ncparks.gov - (828) 966-9099
An 8,000-acre park on the Blue Ridge Escarpment with waterfalls, gorges and dramatic elevation changes provide for a concentration of rare and unique plant and animal species. A LEED-certified visitor center with exhibits, large picnic shelters with fireplaces, hiking trails, observation decks and primitive backcountry camping.
- Grandfather Mountain State Park** GPS: Hwy 105 S 36.121990, -81.829993 Blue Ridge Parkway 36.120076, -81.781358
grandfather.mountain@ncparks.gov - (828) 963-9522
12 miles of rugged, scenic trails with magnificent views from rock outcrops and forested coves; highest peak at 5,946 feet. Home to over 70 rare/endangered species and 16 distinct natural communities. Adjacent to the private Grandfather Mountain attraction.
- Hammocks Beach State Park** GPS: 34.67261, -77.13945
hammocks.beach@ncparks.gov - (910) 326-4881
On mainland and islands; park operates a seasonal passenger ferry to ocean beach, maritime forests, salt marshes, tidal creeks. Sea turtle nesting site.
- Hanging Rock State Park** GPS: 36.411906, -80.254122
hanging.rock@ncparks.gov - (336) 593-8480
Rock outcrops at elevations up to 2,580 feet, five waterfalls, mountain lake, access to scenic river. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.
- Haw River State Park** GPS: 36.250646, -79.756364
haw.river@ncparks.gov - (336) 342-6163
The Summit Environmental Education and Conference Center provides training facilities, environmental education opportunities and overnight accommodations.
- Jockey's Ridge State Park** GPS: 35.9642, -75.6330
jockeys.ridge@ncparks.gov - (252) 441-7132
Tallest living sand dune along U.S. Atlantic coast, barrier island ecology. Stroll along the sound or hang glide from a dune. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.
- Jones Lake State Park** GPS: 34.682743, -78.595423
jones.lake@ncparks.gov - (910) 588-4550
Carolina bay environment, five-mile hiking trail through diverse habitats with lake overlooks.
- Jordan Lake State Recreation Area** GPS: 35.7369, -79.0169
jordan.lake@ncparks.gov - (919) 362-0586
13,900-acre reservoir, home to American bald eagles. Several areas for day-use or overnight recreation.
- Kerr Lake State Recreation Area** GPS: 36.4411, -78.3688
kerr.lake@ncparks.gov - (252) 438-7791
50,000-acre reservoir with 800 miles of shoreline spanning North Carolina/Virginia state line.
- Lake James State Park** GPS: 35.750378, -81.892075
lake.james@ncparks.gov - (828) 584-7728
Vistas of surrounding Black Mountains overlooking manmade 6,812-acre lake. Take advantage of the many recreation opportunities this lake has to offer.

- Lake Norman State Park** GPS: 35.672548, -80.932500
lake.norman@ncparks.gov - (704) 528-6350
State's largest manmade lake at 32,510 acres. More than 30 miles of biking trails.
- Lake Waccamaw State Park** GPS: 34.278985, -78.465485
lake.waccamaw@ncparks.gov - (910) 646-4748
One of the largest Carolina bays with unique plants and animals, including alligators.
- Lumber River State Park** GPS: Princess Ann 34.390023, -79.002225 Chalks Bank 34.8987, -79.3549
lumber.river@ncparks.gov - (910) 628-4564
State Nature & Scenic and National Wild & Scenic 115 miles blackwater river. Enjoy Griffin's Whirl, a unique reverse flow area.
- Mayo River State Park** GPS: 36.438800, -79.938171
mayo.river@ncparks.gov - (336) 427-2530
A visitor's center, hiking trails, picnic tables and a picnic shelter are situated near two fishing ponds. Call the park office for updates on new facilities.
- Medoc Mountain State Park** GPS: 36.2639, -77.8883
medoc.mountain@ncparks.gov - (252) 586-6588
Exposed rock outcrops, bluffs, steep topography, rocks, minerals unusual to piedmont.
- Merchants Millpond State Park** GPS: 36.437105, -76.701585
merchants.millpond@ncparks.gov - (252) 357-1191
Maze of towering bald cypress trees draped in Spanish moss dominates millpond and adjacent swamp. Rent a canoe/kayak to explore the millpond.
- Morrow Mountain State Park** GPS: 35.373724, -80.073477
morrow.mountain@ncparks.gov - (704) 982-4402
Mountains up to 936 feet, peaceful lake. These pinnacles are the remains of one of the oldest mountain ranges in the eastern United States.
- Mount Jefferson State Natural Area** GPS: 36.397660, -81.473466
mount.jefferson@ncparks.gov - (336) 246-9653
Panoramic views from scenic Blue Ridge mountaintop at 4,683-foot elevation. National Natural Landmark.
- Mount Mitchell State Park** GPS: 35.7528, -82.2737
mount.mitchell@ncparks.gov - (828) 675-4611
Highest peak east of the Mississippi at 6,684 feet, views up to 100 miles, North Carolina's first state park. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.
- New River State Park** GPS: 36.467680, -81.340350
new.river@ncparks.gov - (336) 982-2587
Nationally designated Wild and Scenic and American Heritage River. It offers canoeing and hiking past scenic rock outcrops, farmlands and woodlands.

- Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area** GPS: 36.060835, -79.116900
eno.river@ncparks.gov - (919) 383-1686
Over three miles of trail circle around the highest point in Orange County, providing beautiful views of the mountain and the Eno River.
- Pettigrew State Park** GPS: 35.473203, -76.243417
pettigrew@ncparks.gov - (252) 797-4475
Second-largest natural lake in state, old-growth trees, American Indian artifacts including second-oldest dugout canoe in U.S., plantation historic site and grave of Confederate general.
- Pilot Mountain State Park** GPS: 36.341276, -80.462938
pilot.mountain@ncparks.gov - (336) 325-2355
National Natural Landmark offering scenic vistas of Blue Ridge mountains. Canoe the Yadkin River as it flows for two miles through the park.
- Raven Rock State Park** GPS: 35.4597, -78.9127
raven.rock@ncparks.gov - (910) 893-4888
Landmark bluff that stretches 150-foot-high and more than a mile along the Cape Fear River.
- Singletary Lake State Park** GPS: 34.5831, -78.4496
singletary.lake@ncparks.gov - (910) 669-2928
Carolina bay environment, scenic lake vistas, undeveloped shoreline.
- South Mountains State Park** GPS: 35.5963, -81.6000
south.mountains@ncparks.gov - (828) 433-4772
Mountain peaks to 3,000 feet, 80-foot waterfall. Parts of the park were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).
- Stone Mountain State Park** GPS: 36.3873, -81.0273
stone.mountain@ncparks.gov - (336) 957-8185
Rock dome rising 600 feet above the valley floor, waterfalls, mid-19th century homestead, Blue Ridge mountain views. Part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail.
- Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve** GPS: 35.1469, -79.3690
weymouth.woods@ncparks.gov - (910) 692-2167
Longleaf pine forest; broad, flat valleys; rare and endangered species include red-cockaded woodpecker, pine barrens tree frog, bog spicebush.
- William B. Umstead State Park** GPS: 35.8905, -78.7502
william.umstead@ncparks.gov - (919) 571-4170
More than 5,000 acres of hardwood forest in urban Triangle region including creeks, lakes and extensive trail network with scenic overlooks.

Activities & amenities in state parks		Camping facilities ⦿ Electric hookups ⦿ Electric and water hookups	Trails Hiking, more than 5 miles Horseback riding Bicycling	Recreation ⦿ Motors 10-horsepower or less	Education
Western	Chimney Rock				
	Crowders Mountain				
	Elk Knob				
	Gorges				
	Grandfather Mountain				
	Hanging Rock				
	Lake James				
	Lake Norman				
	Mount Jefferson				
	Mount Mitchell				
Central	Morrow Mountain				
	New River				
	Pilot Mountain				
	South Mountains				
	Stone Mountain				
	Carvers Creek				
	Eno River				
	Falls Lake				
	Haw River				
	Jordan Lake				
Eastern	Kerr Lake				
	Lumber River				
	Mayo River				
	Occoneechee Mountain				
	Raven Rock				
	Weymouth Woods				
	William B. Umstead				
	Cliffs of the Neuse				
	Dismal Swamp				
	Goose Creek				
Coastal	Jones Lake				
	Lake Waccamaw				
	Medoc Mountain				
	Merchants Millpond				
	Pettigrew				
	Singletary Lake				
	Carolina Beach				
	Fort Fisher				
	Fort Macon				
	Hammocks Beach				
	Jockey's Ridge				